

AS

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 98-045-C - ORDER NO. 98-576

JULY 28, 1998

IN RE: Application of Startec Global) ORDER
Communications Corporation for a Certificate) GRANTING
of Public Convenience and Necessity to) APPLICATION
Provide Resold Interexchange)
Telecommunications Services and for)
Alternative Regulatory Treatment.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") by way of the Application of Startec Global Communications Corporation ("Startec" or the "Company") requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to operate as a reseller of interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina through the resale of similar services offered by other interexchange carriers ("IXCs"). The Company's Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-280 (Supp. 1997) and the Regulations of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. By its Application, Startec also requested alternative regulation of its business services offerings identical to that granted to AT&T Communications in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C.

The Commission's Executive Director instructed Startec to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of Startec's Application and of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in

the proceeding. Startec complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice of Filing. No Petitions to Intervene or Protests were filed.

A hearing was convened on July 9, 1998, at 11:00 a.m. in the Commission's Hearing Room at 111 Doctors Circle, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable William Saunders, Vice Chairman, presided. Startec was represented by John J. Pringle, Jr., Esquire. Florence P. Belser, Staff Counsel, represented the Commission Staff.

Deborah Tettamanti, Senior Manager of Residential Accounts for Startec, appeared and testified in support of the Application. The record reveals that Startec is a Maryland corporation which is registered to conduct business in South Carolina as a foreign corporation. According to Ms. Tettamanti, Startec is a reseller of interexchange telecommunications services currently utilizing the interexchange carrier services of IXC Communications and WorldCom. Startec's services include "1+" and "10XXX" long distance and prepaid calling (debit) cards. Ms. Tettamanti explained the Company's request for authority and the record reveals the Company's services, operations, and marketing procedures.

Ms. Tettamanti also discussed Startec's technical, financial, and managerial resources to provide the services for which it seeks authority to provide. Finally, Ms. Tettamanti testified that Startec will operate in accordance with Commission rules, regulations, guidelines, and Commission Orders.

Ms. Tettamanti also offered that approval of Startec's application would serve the public interest by creating greater competition in the interexchange marketplace and will

provide consumers with a greater choice of billing options and long distance services for intrastate calls, promoting more efficient use of the underlying networks.

After full consideration of the applicable law, the Company's Application, and the evidence presented at the hearing, the Commission hereby issues its findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Startec is organized as a corporation under the laws of the State of Maryland and is authorized to do business as a foreign corporation in the State of South Carolina by the Secretary of State.
2. Startec operates as a non-facilities based reseller of interexchange services and wishes to provide its services in South Carolina.
3. Startec has the experience, capability, and financial resources to provide the services as described in its Application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Based on the above findings of fact, the Commission determines that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should be granted to Startec to provide intrastate interLATA service and to originate and terminate toll traffic within the same LATA, as set forth herein, through its own facilities and through the resale of intrastate Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS), Message Telecommunications Service (MTS), Foreign Exchange Service, Private Line Service, or any other services authorized for resale by tariffs of carriers approved by the Commission.

2. The Commission adopts a rate design for Startec for its resale of residential services which includes only maximum rate levels for each tariff charge. A rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels has been previously adopted by the Commission. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications Corporation, etc., Order No. 84-622, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (August 2, 1984).

3. Startec shall not adjust its residential rates below the approved maximum level without notice to the Commission and to the public. Startec shall file its proposed rate changes, publish its notice of such changes, and file affidavits of publication with the Commission two weeks prior to the effective date of the changes. However, the public notice requirement is waived, and therefore not required, for reductions below the maximum cap in instances which do not affect the general body of subscribers or do not constitute a general rate reduction. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications, etc., Order No. 93-638, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (July 16, 1993). Any proposed increase in the maximum rate level for residential services reflected in the tariff which would be applicable to the general body of the Company's subscribers shall constitute a general ratemaking proceeding and will be treated in accordance with the notice and hearing provisions of S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-540 (Supp. 1997).

4. With respect to Startec's business service offerings including credit card services, operator services, and customer network offerings, the Commission adopts a relaxed regulatory scheme identical to that granted to AT&T Communications in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C. Under this relaxed regulatory scheme,

tariff filings for business services shall be presumed valid upon filing. The Commission will have seven (7) days in which to institute an investigation of any tariff filing. If the Commission institutes an investigation of a particular tariff filing within the seven days, the tariff filing will then be suspended until further Order of the Commission. Any relaxation in the future reporting requirements that may be adopted for AT&T shall apply to Startec also. Staff is instructed to monitor Startec using the same monitoring process and techniques as are used to monitor AT&T.

5. If it has not already done so by the date of issuance of this Order, Startec shall file its revised tariff and an accompanying price list within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. The revised tariff shall be consistent with the findings of this Order and shall be consistent with the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

6. Startec is subject to access charges pursuant to Commission Order No. 86-584, in which the Commission determined that for access purposes resellers and facilities-based interexchange carriers should be treated similarly.

7. With regard to the Company's resale of service, an end-user should be able to access another interexchange carrier or operator service provider if the end-user so desires.

8. Startec shall resell the services of only those interexchange carriers or LECs authorized to do business in South Carolina by this Commission. If Startec changes underlying carriers, it shall notify the Commission in writing.

9. With regard to the origination and termination of toll calls within the same LATA, Startec shall comply with the terms of Order No. 93-462, Order Approving

Stipulation and Agreement, in Docket Nos. 92-182-C, 92-183-C, and 92-200-C (June 3, 1993).

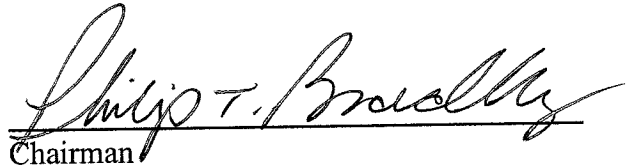
10. Startec shall file surveillance reports on a calendar or fiscal year basis with the Commission as required by Order No. 88-178 in Docket No. 87-483-C. The proper form for these reports is indicated on Attachment A.

11. The Company shall, in compliance with Commission regulations, designate and maintain an authorized utility representative who is prepared to discuss, on a regulatory level, customer relations (complaint) matters, engineering operations, tests and repairs. In addition, the Company shall provide to the Commission in writing the name of the authorized representative to be contacted in connection with general management duties as well as emergencies which occur during non-office hours. Startec shall file the names, addresses and telephone numbers of these representatives with the Commission within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. Attachment B shall be utilized for the provision of this information to the Commission. Further, the Company shall promptly notify the Commission in writing if the representatives are replaced.

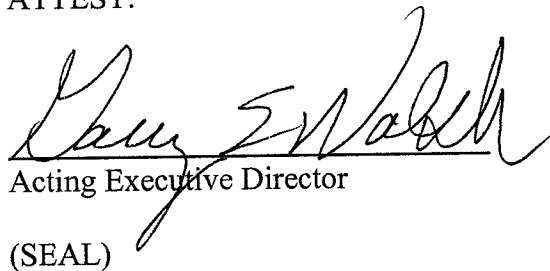
12. The Company is directed to comply with all Rules and Regulations of the Commission, unless a regulation is specifically waived by the Commission.

13. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Acting Executive Director
(SEAL)

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ATTACHMENT A

ANNUAL INFORMATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS FOR INTEREXCHANGE COMPANIES AND AOS'S

COMPANY NAME

FEI NO.

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER

- (1) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING REVENUES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.
- (2) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.
- (3) RATE BASE INVESTMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS* FOR
12 MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.
- * THIS WOULD INCLUDE GROSS PLANT, ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION,
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES, CASH WORKING CAPITAL, CONSTRUCTION WORK IN
PROGRESS, ACCUMULATED DEFERRED INCOME TAX, CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF
CONSTRUCTION AND CUSTOMER DEPOSITS.
- (4) PARENT'S CAPITAL STRUCTURE* AT DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING
_____.
- * THIS WOULD INCLUDE ALL LONG TERM DEBT (NOT THE CURRENT PORTION
PAYABLE), PREFERRED STOCK AND COMMON EQUITY.
- (5) PARENT'S EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR LONG TERM DEBT AND
EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR PREFERRED STOCK AT YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.
- (6) ALL DETAILS ON THE ALLOCATION METHOD USED TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT
OF EXPENSES ALLOCATED TO SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS AS WELL AS
METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF COMPANY'S RATE BASE INVESTMENT (SEE #3
ABOVE).

SIGNATURE

NAME (PLEASE TYPE OF PRINT)

TITLE

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ATTACHMENT B

**INFORMATION OF THE AUTHORIZED UTILITY
REPRESENTATIVES FOR INTEREXCHANGE, LOCAL
AND AOS COMPANIES**

PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
REGULATION 103-612.2.4(b), each utility shall file and maintain with the Commission
the name, title, address, and telephone number of the persons who should be contacted in
connection with Customer Relations/Complaints.

Company Name/DBA Name

Business Address

City, State, Zip Code

Authorized Utility Representative (Please Print or Type)

Telephone Number

Fax Number

E-Mail Address

This form was completed by Signature

If you have any questions, contact the Consumer Services Department at 803-737-5230